

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 22, 2007 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-32 were pending in the application. No claims have been added, canceled, or amended. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Prior Art Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arrow et al. (hereinafter "Arrow") in view of Yamaguchi et al. (hereinafter "Yamaguchi"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The instant invention deals with managing IPsec sessions in an IPsec setting server, such that authentication and security parameter setting occurs on a server rather than remote machines utilizing the network security protocol. Correspondingly, claim 1 recites a network comprising "an IPsec setting server apparatus, which manages IPsec settings of said IPsec processing apparatuses, wherein said IPsec setting server apparatus includes means for collectively managing policies of said IPsec to be applied between first and second IPsec processing apparatuses". Claim 8 recites an IPsec apparatus in a network with such an IPSEC setting server, "wherein said IPsec setting server apparatus includes means for collectively managing policies of said IPsec to be applied among said IPsec processing apparatuses". Claim 15 recites an IPsec apparatus in a network with such an IPSEC setting server, "wherein said IPsec processing apparatus includes means for, upon receiving a packet to which said IPsec should be applied, judging whether or not to inquire a setting for said IPsec to be collectively managed in an IPsec setting server apparatus from said IPsec setting server apparatus". Claim 21 recites an IPsec apparatus in a network with such an IPSEC setting server, "wherein said IPsec setting server apparatus includes a step of collectively managing policies of said IPsec to be applied among said IPsec processing apparatuses".

As admitted in the outstanding Office Action, Arrow does not disclose using IPsec as a security protocol for its VPN. Arrow does not disclose any machines or servers that are capable of communicating using the IPsec protocol. Further, Arrow does not even disclose any servers that manage security for the system. Rather, each Operating System in the network of Arrow manages its own security parameters (Figure 7, column 11, lines 12-47). This is in contrast to the invention as claimed, which cites “an IPsec setting server apparatus, which manages IPsec settings of said IPsec processing apparatuses, wherein said IPsec setting server apparatus includes means for collectively managing policies of said IPsec to be applied between first and second IPsec processing apparatuses”. There is no disclosure in Arrow, even without utilizing the IPsec protocol, of a server that manages the security policies of a network security protocol to be applied between client machines.

Yamaguchi fails to make up for the deficiencies of Arrow as shown above. Yamaguchi also fails to teach cites “an IPsec setting server apparatus, which manages IPsec settings of said IPsec processing apparatuses, wherein said IPsec setting server apparatus includes means for collectively managing policies of said IPsec to be applied between first and second IPsec processing apparatuses”. Yamaguchi states each apparatus maintains its own SA and SPDs (paragraph 0077). There is no teaching that there is a IPsec setting server that maintains these values, to even be able to manage the policies of IPsec to be applied to client machines. Thus, even if the teachings of Yamaguchi were combined with those of Arrow, the features of the instant invention (an IPsec setting server apparatus) would be lacking.

As shown, neither Arrow nor Yamaguchi teaches or discloses all of the features of the independent claim, specifically failing to teach a flag in the packet header that indicates whether co-ordination exists in a combined network. Thus, Arrow and Yamaguchi, either alone or in any combination thereof, would also fail to teach all of the limitations of the independent claims. If this rejection is maintained, the examiner is respectfully requested to point out where this feature are disclosed in either Arrow or Yamaguchi..

The dependent claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional patentable features when considered as a whole. As mentioned above, Applicant believes that

the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

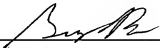
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance. An indication of the same is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 6/11/07

By 

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